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(54) Title: A MARKER SPECIFIC FOR *ESCHERICHIA COLI* SEROTYPES O157:H7; O157:NM AND O55:H7

(57) Abstract: A novel DNA marker specific for *E. coli* serotypes O157:H7; O157:NM and O55:H7 is disclosed. The isolation of the marker allows the development of diagnostic assays that can be used to detect the serotypes in the sample. In particular, the marker can be used to prepare nucleic acid primers and nucleotide probes based on the sequence of the marker.

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